

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PM-09 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 079012

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA MASS IC

SUBJECT: ICELANDIC INTEREST IN USG COAST GUARD CUTTER

REF: REYKJAVIK 421

1. RECENT REPORTS ABOUT STEPPED- UP VIOLENCE IN GOI- UK- FRG FISHERIES DISPUTE ARE DISTURBING, AND OBVIOUSLY COMPLICATE PROBLEM OF REACHING PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, AGREEMENT HAS NOW BEEN REACHED FOR GOI- UK TALKS IN REYKJAVIK MAY 3-4 WITH POSSIBLE FOLLOW- UP IN LONDON FEW DAYS LATER WHEN SIR ALEC DOUGLAS- HOME WOULD BE ABLE PARTICIPATE. WE DO NOT KNOW ANYTHING SPECIFIC ABOUT GOI- FRG TALKS, BUT RECENT VISIT TO ICELAND BY SPECIAL FRG EMISSARY SEEMED FAVORABLE SIGN. THIS IS PROMISING BUT VERY FRAGILE SCENARIO WHICH COULD EASILY FALL APART IF VIOLENCE CONTINUES. FOR ICELANDERS TO PUT IN MORE CUTTERS, OR OTHER
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CRAFT, WHICH UK MIGHT THEN DECIDE TO TOP WITH NAVAL VESSELS, STRIKES US AS STERILE AND DANGEROUS ESCALATION EXERCISE, WHICH WE OURSELVES WANT NO PART OF, AND FROM WHICH WE HOPE OUR GOOD FRIENDS AND ALLIES CAN BE DIS-SUADED.

2. FOR REYKJAVIK. YOU SHOULD TELL SIGURDSSON THAT USG SIMPLY CANNOT BECOME INVOLVED IN FISHERIES DISPUTE AND THAT WE ARE UNABLE PROVIDE BOATS FOR PURPOSES INDICATED IN HIS TALK WITH YOU. IF YOU THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL, YOU MAY TELL HIM THAT AT EARLIER STAGE UK REQUESTED FROM US VESSEL WHICH COULD BE USED AS UNARMED HIGH- SPEED TUG FOR USE IN ICELANDIC FISHERIES AREA, AND THAT US TURNED DOWN REQUEST FOR SAME REASON WE ARE UNABLE COMPLY WITH PRESENT GOI REQUEST. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE TO SIGURDSSON OR ANY OTHER GOI OFFICIAL WITH WHOM SUBJECT DISCUSSED OUR STRONG BELIEF THAT BEST COURSE FOR BOTH GOI AND UK- FRG IS EARLY AND AMICABLE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS.

3. FOR LONDON. WITHOUT GOING INTO SPECIFICS OF BOAT REQUESTS TO USG FROM EITHER SIDE, YOU SHOULD REGISTER WITH FCO OR OTHER APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OUR CONCERN OVER RECENT STEP- UP IN VIOLENCE, AND OUR HOPE FOR EARLY AND CONCLUSIVE NEGOTIATIONS AIMED AT REMOVING THIS IRRITANT FROM NATO FAMILY AFFAIRS. ROGERS

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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